

June 19 / Administration of George Bush, 1991

Foreign Minister Hector Gros Espiell of Uruguay; Joao Clemente Baena Soares, Secretary General of the Organization of American States; Secretary of the Treasury Nich-

olas F. Brady; Secretary of Commerce Robert A. Mosbacher; and United States Trade Representative Carla A. Hills.

Statement by Press Secretary Fitzwater on the Establishment of the Council on Trade and Investment

June 19, 1991

The United States today signed a framework agreement with Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay establishing a Council on Trade and Investment. The President, accompanied by Brazilian President Fernando Collor, participated in the Rose Garden ceremony. United States Trade Representative Carla A. Hills signed for the United States. The other signatories were Argentine Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella, Brazilian Foreign Minister Francisco Rezek, Paraguayan Foreign Minister Alexis Frutos Vaesken, and Uruguayan Foreign Minister Hector Gros Espiell.

The framework agreement is the first signed with a regional group since the President announced the Enterprise for the Americas Initiative (EAI) on June 27, 1990. The United States has signed bilateral framework agreements with eight other countries of this hemisphere under the EAI.

The objectives of this Council, established by this framework agreement, are to monitor trade and investment relations, identify opportunities for expanding trade and in-

vestment through liberalization and other appropriate means, and negotiate implementing agreements. It will also seek to consult on specific trade and investment matters of interest to both parties and identify and work to remove impediments to trade and investment flows. Under the agreement, the five countries agreed to seek the cooperation of the private sector in matters related to the work of the Council.

In his remarks during the signing ceremony, the President praised the accord, noting that the proposal for a multilateral agreement had come from the four Latin American countries. He reaffirmed that the U.S. goal is for a hemispheric free trade area stretching from Alaska in the north to Tierra del Fuego in the south, and promised that the United States would implement this agreement with the same spirit of cooperation and innovation that produced it in the first place.

At President Collor's suggestion, the parties have agreed to refer to this agreement as the Rose Garden Agreement.

Remarks Following Discussions With Former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher of the United Kingdom

June 20, 1991

The President. I don't think we're having a press conference, but I want to just take this opportunity to say how much General Scowcroft and I have enjoyed a visit with the former Prime Minister. Over an hour, she shared with us her views on the Soviet Union, having returned from a very inter-

esting and very constructive trip not so long ago. We are anticipating a meeting today of Mr. Yeltsin, and this debrief or my picking her brains, as I did, is extraordinarily helpful in that context, as in many other contexts.

But Margaret, I just want to thank you for

popping in, and you are welcome at any time.

Mrs. Thatcher. Thank you very much, Mr. President, I've enjoyed it enormously. They're historic days: democracy has come to the Soviet Union. It now has to be backed up by full economic reform, with everyone pulling together. Thank you very much. Thank you so much.

Note: The President spoke at 8:10 a.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Brent Scowcroft, Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs, and Boris Yeltsin, President of the Republic of Russia. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks Following Discussions With Mangosuthu Gatsha Buthelezi, Chief Minister of South Africa's KwaZulu Homeland and Leader of the Inkatha Freedom Party

June 20, 1991

The President. Let me just say that we've had a very engaging and interesting meeting with the Chief Minister Buthelezi. He and I were reminiscing, and I think this is my fifth meeting, at least, with him over the last few years. And I've found this one perhaps the most constructive in terms of getting up-to-date from him on developments in South Africa.

We talked about the sanctions question. We talked about a wide array of other questions, including the state of play in negotiations. And we have a very good feeling now. He agrees with us that dramatic progress has been made—or we agree with him on that. We both agree that more progress must be made.

I told him of our policy. Our law is very clear that when five conditions are met, we will lift sanctions. And I don't want to put words in his mouth, but I believe the Chief Minister feels this would be the constructive approach to take in terms of jobs and investment and many other things.

So, we once again have had a very good, productive meeting where we agree on perhaps the most important questions facing relations between this country and South Africa.

Chief Minister, it's been a joy to have you here once again, sir.

The Chief Minister. Thank you, Mr. President. Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. I just want to say that I'm very honored, indeed, to be here. And I'm pleased

to have once again, as the President said, the opportunity to meet with the President. We had positive and fruitful discussions about the future of South Africa.

We in the Inkatha Freedom Party and the majority, I think, of all South Africans share the fundamental values upon which this great democracy is based: individual liberty, human dignity, and a just society based on just laws.

This meeting comes at an auspicious moment as legislated apartheid has been scrapped. And South Africa now faces the great challenge of ensuring a peaceful transition to a multiparty democracy.

As we are witnessing around the world, transitions to democracy are the most delicate time in the life of nations. And those such transitions are happening at an unprecedented pace, from Eastern Europe to Africa. None, in fact, are assured of success without careful preparation of democratic structures and democratic ethos in the society.

This delicate task cannot be accomplished on the base of one or two parties alone. They cannot just be bipolar, especially in complex societies such as that of ours in South Africa. Authentic democracies have numerous voices and numerous visions, all of which must be heard. We look forward to engaging other parties in political debate, but stress that this engagement must take place in the political arena, not in